DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

DEC 19 2000

Re: Azopt
Docket No. 98E-0837

#21

The Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson
Director of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
Box Pat. Ext.
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Director Dickinson:

This is in regard to the patent term extension application for U.S. Patent No. 5,378,703 filed by Alcon Laboratories under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The patent claims the human drug product Azopt (brinzolamide), new drug application NDA 20-816.

In the January 27, 2000, issue of the *Federal Register* (65 Fed. Reg. 4435), the Food and Drug Administration published its determination of this product's regulatory review period, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A). The notice provided that on or before July 25, 2000, 180 days after the publication of the determination, any interested person could file a petition with FDA under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(B)(i) for a determination of whether the patent term extension applicant acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period.

The 180-day period for filing a due diligence petition pursuant to this notice has expired, and FDA has received no such petition. Therefore, FDA considers the regulatory review period determination to be final.

Please let me know if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Sally S. Yeager
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